

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 07834

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR NATO
SUBJECT: VISIT TO USMISSION BY CODEL SYKES AND FLYNT

1. CONGRESSMEN SYKES AND FLYNT PAID A SHORT VISIT TO THE USMISSION ON THE AFTERNOON OF 18 AUGUST. THEY MET IN INFORMAL SESSION JOINTLY WITH THE AMBASSADOR, GENERAL JAMES ALLEN, CHIEF OF STAFF, SHAPE, RADM HUBBARD, AND MR. LOVELAND. DISCUSSION COVERED WIDE RANGE OF CURRENT NATO CONCERNS AND APPEARED TO SATISFY THE CODEL.

2. THREE PARTICULAR SUBJECTS WERE BROUGHT UP BY THE CODEL AS FOLLOWS:

A. CODEL WAS EXTREMELY CONCERNED OVER PRESIDENTIAL VETO OF MILITARY PROCUREMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR FY-79. IN PARTICULAR THEY DISPUTED THE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON WEAPONS PROCUREMENT AND O&M AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION RESULTING FROM THE ADDITION OF FUNDS FOR THE NUCLEAR CARRIER. THEY BELIEVED THAT SUFFICIENT VOTES COULD BE MUSTERED TO OVERRIDE THE VETO. MR. SYKES ALSO SUGGESTED THAT FAILURE TO PASS AN AUTHORIZATION BILL WOULD NOT BE FATAL IN THAT, WITHOUT AN AUTHORIZATION, THE APPROPRIATIONS BILL BECAME AN END TO ITSELF AND DID NOT REQUIRE ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION. HE THEREFORE BELIEVED THAT
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THE VETO WOULD HAVE NO OVERALL EFFECT ON MILITARY PROCUREMENT FOR FY-79.

B. THE CODEL AGREED THAT CONGRESSIONAL CUTS IN THE FY-79 MILITARY CONSTRUCTION BILL WERE INORDINATELY SEVERE. THEY RECOGNIZED THAT A NUMBER OF THE CUTS WOULD BE HARMFUL FOR NATO'S DEFENSE AND RECOMMENDED EARLY ACTION BY

THE PENTAGON TO CORRECT THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. MR. SYKES SUGGESTED REPROGRAMMING OF ANY AVAILABLE FY-78 FUNDS TO MAKE UP FOR CUTS IN THE APPROPRIATIONS BELOW THE AMOUNTS AUTHORIZED BY ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE. SUCH ACTION, HE SUGGESTED, COULD BE UNDERTAKEN QUICKLY IN ORDER TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE APPROVAL PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER RECESS. IF HOWEVER NO SUCH FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND IT IS NECESSARY TO SOLICIT A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION, TIME WOULD NOT ALLOW SUCH CONGRESSIONAL ACTION UNLESS CONGRESS WAS RECONVENED AFTER THE ELECTION.

C. MR. SYKES WAS CONCERNED THAT ALLIED GROUND TROOPS MIGHT BE EQUIPPED WITH LESS MODERN RIFLES THAN THE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS USED BY WARSAW PACT FORCES. HE ASKED THAT A REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT BE FORWARDED TO HIS OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. WE SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE COORDINATE A REPLY TO SATISFY MR. SYKES UPON HIS RETURN AFTER 10 SEPTEMBER. BENNETT

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